

I live in an area that has been affected by the shrinking number of media outlet owners. The major area newspapers have the same owner as does a major broadcast station and a cable news outlet. It is hard to get any local information that is not filtered through this outlet.

Radio stations are no different, being bought up by large conglomerates who only broadcast homogenized material (be it music or news programming).

What is happening locally is also happening nationally as these conglomerates grow in strength and power.

Anything that might affect them negatively (for example publishing bad news for a large advertiser) can be easily eliminated from their outlets and for many people that information may be unavailable.

One of the reasons that we preserve free speech and the media's right to report what they want is that it serves society in the long run. Censorship generally does not.

While not every situation leads to censorship, it does lead to a narrowing of viewpoints expressed which results in less discussion of the merits of ideas.

I do not think it serves us to allow this trend to continue, and I favor keeping things as they are (at a minimum) or better yet reversing the amount of allowed media consolidation. I would like not to have large companies own multiple media outlets (news, TV, radio) that serve a large percentage of the population in a given area.

I am hoping that the thoughts of an average citizen will be given as much consideration by the FCC as the media conglomerates' lobbyists' views.